



Australian Bureau of Statistics

1259.0.30.001 - Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) Digital Boundaries, Australia, July 2011

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Summary

Main Features

PRODUCT BRIEF

The Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) is a hierarchical classification system of geographical areas and consists of a number of interrelated structures. It provides a common framework of statistical geography and enables the production of statistics which are comparable and can be spatially integrated.

This is the final edition of the ASGC. From 2011 onwards the ABS will be using the new statistical geography called the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS).

This product, **Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) Digital Boundaries, Australia 2011** (cat. no. 1259.0.30.001), contains the digital boundaries and .csv hierarchy files current for the ASGC Edition 2011 (date of effect 1 July 2011). The digital boundaries are presented in MapInfo Interchange Format (.mid/.mif) and ESRI Shapefile (.shp) Format, and are based on the datum GDA94.

The ASGC covers Geographic Australia including the external territories of Cocos (Keeling) Islands & Christmas Island, but excluding all other external territories.

The product includes boundaries of Local Government Areas, Statistical Local Areas, Statistical Divisions, Statistical Subdivisions, States, Statistical Districts, Major Statistical Regions, Statistical Regions and Statistical Region Sectors, current at 1 July 2011. The digital boundaries are available only at one level of detail. These boundaries are intended for import and display in GIS and desktop mapping packages and, because of the high level of detail, they are not suitable for use in 'low-end' mapping packages such as those included in Excel.

Note that it is vitally important to understand which edition of the ASGC has been applied to the statistical data which you are analysing.

Operating Environment

The digital boundary files are in MapInfo Interchange Format (.mid/.mif) and ESRI Shapefile (.shp) format. MapInfo Interchange Format can be imported directly into MapInfo and other common Geographic Information Systems (GIS) or desktop mapping packages. The .mid/.mif files are text format and can be edited and manipulated for import to less common GIS and CAD systems.

The .mid/.mif files cannot be used directly with viewing tools such as MapInfo ProViewer.

The digital boundary files have the datum specified as 116 (GDA94). Users of MapInfo 6.0 or later are able to load data sets based on GDA94 directly, without transformation. Earlier versions of MapInfo cannot interpret GDA94 correctly and there may be alignment problems between data sets based on this datum and other earlier datums.

File Nomenclature

Each file name has the format <file type><11><a><AUST> where:

<file type> represents the type of boundaries in each file

SLA = Statistical Local Area

SSD = Statistical Subdivision

SD = Statistical Division

STE = State

SDIST = Statistical District

LGA = Local Government Area

SRS = Statistical Region Sector

SR = Statistical Region

MSR = Major Statistical Region

<11> represents 2011 the year of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) Edition

<a> indicates the data is at a high level of detail i.e. "all points" data

<AUST> indicates the data covers all of Australia as defined in ABS publication Catalogue Number 1216.0

Within the files, the States/Territories (S/T) are identified by unique one digit codes.

Code	S/T
1	New South Wales
2	Victoria
3	Queensland
4	South Australia
5	Western Australia
6	Tasmania
7	Northern Territory
8	Australian Capital Territory
9	Other Territories

File Attributes

All column headers show spatial unit type, spatial unit attribute and year of edition.

File Type	Fields (.mid/.mif)	Fields (ESRI shp)	Data Type
SLA	STATE_CODE_2011	State_code	Character (1)
	SLA_MAINCODE_2011	Sla_code11	Character (9)
	SLA_NAME_2011	Sla_name11	Character (50)

	SLA_5DIGITCODE_2011	Sla_5digit	Character (5)
	SLA_REGIONCODE_2011	Sla_reg11	Character (9)
SSD	STATE_CODE_2011	State_code	Character (1)
	SSD_CODE_2011	Ssd_code11	Character (5)
	SSD_NAME_2011	Ssd_name11	Character (50)
SD	STATE_CODE_2011	State_code	Character (1)
	SD_CODE_2011	Sd_code11	Character (3)
	SD_NAME_2011	Sd_name11	Character (50)
STE	STATE_CODE_2011	State_code	Character (1)
	STATE_NAME_2011	State_name	Character (50)
LGA	STATE_CODE_2011	State_code	Character (1)
	LGA_CODE_2011	Lga_code11	Character (5)
	LGA_NAME_2011	Lga_name11	Character (50)
SDIST	SDIST_CODE_2011	Sdist_code	Character (4)
	SDIST_NAME_2011	Sdist_name	Character (50)
SRS	STATE_CODE_2011	State_code	Character (1)
	SRS_CODE_2011	Srs_code11	Character (5)
	SRS_NAME_2011	Srs_name11	Character (50)
SR	STATE_CODE_2011	State_code	Character (1)
	SR_CODE_2011	Sr_code11	Character (4)
	SR_NAME_2011	Sr_name11	Character (30)
MSR	STATE_CODE_2011	State_code	Character (1)
	MSR_CODE_2011	Msr_code11	Character (2)
	MSR_NAME_2011	Msr_name11	Character (50)

Data Quality

The ASGC Edition 2011 digital boundaries are all based upon the SLA boundaries of the ASGC Edition 2011. This year to assist in the change over to the ASGS, SLAs were aggregated up from the 2011 Mesh Blocks (MBs). This was done to ensure that both the ASGC and the ASGS had the same building block to assist with comparability between the two classifications.

The differences between the MB based LGAs and the actual boundaries is minimal and not statistically significant.

While the topological consistency of the data can be regarded as high there may be very small errors such as gaps, overlaps and bow-ties.

Metadata

Refer to the Explanatory Notes for the Metadata Proforma in this product.

Reference

Information regarding the underlying concepts of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification and its Structures may be found in the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) 2011 (cat. no. 1216.0). A publication is produced for each edition of the ASGC and the publication for the ASGC Edition 2011 will be available from 16 September 2011.

For information regarding the new statistical geography and to obtain the digital boundaries for the Mesh Blocks, the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) may be found in the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 1 - Main Structure and Greater Capital City Statistical Areas, July 2011 (cat no. 1270.0.55.001)

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For more information on statistical geography please view the ABS Geography portal.

For enquiries please email geography@abs.gov.au

About this Release

Digital boundaries for the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC). Boundaries are available for Statistical Local Areas and higher level spatial units.

The digital boundaries are supplied in MapInfo Interchange Format and ESRI Shapefile Format. They are based upon the Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA) 1994.

History of Changes

This document was added or updated on 05/10/2011.

05/10/2011 – All 9 .csv files containing the Mesh Block (MB) ASGC hierarchies have been replaced. The change is minor with the removal of the non-spatial MB code for 'No Usual Address' (MB code *0000009499; where * = State/Territory) from each file.

The No Usual Address MB was previously incorrectly allocated to the Migratory - Offshore - Shipping SLA (*85019779; where * = State/Territory).

The No Usual Address MB is only used for the output of Census data and does not relate to any of the spatial records in the ASGC.

Explanatory Notes

Geography metadata proforma

GEOGRAPHY METADATA PROFORMA

Dataset Custodian

Title

Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) Digital Boundaries, Australia
(cat. no. 1259.0.30.001)

Custodian

ABS Geography

Email: geography@abs.gov.au

Description

Abstract

The digital boundaries for this edition of the ASGC are consistent with the spatial units described in the structures of the ASGC 2011. Date of effect of this edition is 1 July 2011. Digital boundaries are for Statistical Local Area (SLA), Statistical Subdivision (SSD), Statistical Division (SD), Local Government Area (LGA), Statistical District (SDIST), Major Statistical Region (MSR), Statistical Region (SR), Statistical Region Sector (SRS) and State/Territory (STE).

This is the final edition of the ASGC. To assist in the transition to the new Statistical Geography, the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS), the 2011 SLAs have been aggregated up from the 2011 Mesh Blocks (MB). The 2011 MBs are also the building blocks for the 2011 ASGS.

Geographic Extent Name

Geographic Australia; including the external territories of Cocos (Keeling) Islands & Christmas Island but excluding all other external territories.

Data Currency

Beginning date: 1 July 2011

End date: 30 June 2012

Data Status

Progress: Completed dataset

Maintenance and Update Frequency: This is the last edition of the ASGC and there will be no further updates.

Data Access

Stored Data Format

Digital as separate files for each level of the ASGC 2011 structures represented.

Available Format Type

MapInfo Interchange Format (.mid/.mif) and ESRI Shapefile Format (.shp)

Access Constraints

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Data Quality

Lineage

MB boundaries are aggregated up to form the 2011 SLA boundaries. The MB boundaries were created using various sources including the PSMA digital topographic datasets and ABS SLA boundaries, zoning information from state planning agencies and imagery. Higher level spatial units are aggregated from the SLA level.

Positional Accuracy

Positional accuracy is an assessment of the closeness of the location of the spatial objects in relation to their true positions on the earth's surface.

The positional accuracy includes:

- a horizontal accuracy assessment
- a vertical accuracy assessment

Positional accuracy for ABS boundaries is dependent on the accuracy of the features they have been aligned to. ABS boundaries are aligned to a number of layers supplied by PSMA with an accuracy of +/-50 mm. PSMA layers and their positional accuracy are as follows:

- Transport and Topography
 - +/- 2 metres in urban areas and +/- 10 metres in rural and remote areas.
- CadLite
 - +/- 2 metres in urban areas and +/- 10 metres in rural and remote areas.
- Administrative Boundaries
 - Derived from the cadastre data from each Australian State and Territory jurisdiction.
- Greenspace and Hydrology
 - Relative spatial accuracy of these themes reflects that of the jurisdictional source data. Generally the accuracy is +/- 2 metres in urban areas and +/- 10 metres in rural and remote areas.

Attribute Accuracy

Geographical area codes and labels are fully validated to the 2011 edition codes and labels of the structures represented. Reference is Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) (cat. no. 1216.0).

Logical Consistency

Spatial units are closed polygons. Polygons are attributed with ASGC 2011 codes and labels. Slivers/bow-ties may be present within or between spatial units. These data include attribute records without spatial objects for administrative purposes.

Completeness

Four structures defined for the ASGC 2011 are represented - all levels of each of those structures are represented. The four structures represented are the Main Structure, Local Government Area Structure, Statistical District Structure and Statistical Region Structure.

Mesh Block (MB) digital boundaries are available from the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 1 - Main Structure and Greater Capital City Statistical Areas, July 2011 (cat no. 1270.0.55.001).

Co-ordinate Systems

Datum

All ABS spatial data is sourced from an Oracle Spatial Database. The datum used is defined by the following Oracle WKT:

```
Longitude / Latitude (GDA 94)
GEOGCS [ "Longitude / Latitude (GDA 94)",
DATUM [ "GDA 94",
SPHEROID [ "GRS 80", 6378137, 298.257222101]],
PRIMEM [ "Greenwich", 0.000000 ],
UNIT [ "Decimal Degree", 0.01745329251994330]]
```

Projection

Geographical (ie. latitudes and longitudes)

Metadata Date

July 2011

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Information about CSV files

INFORMATION ABOUT CSV FILES

The product **Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) Digital Boundaries, Australia, July 2011** (cat no. 1259.0.30.001) contains comma-separated value (.csv) files. This year, to assist users in the transition to the new ASGS, the 2011 ASGC has been aggregated up from the 2011 Mesh Blocks (MBs). The 2011 MBs are also the building blocks for the ASGS.

These .csv files list the ASGC hierarchies for all regions beginning with MBs.

There are nine .csv files listing the geographical hierarchies for each State/Territory (S/T):

- New South Wales (NSW)
- Victoria (Vic.)
- Queensland (QLD)
- South Australia (SA)
- Western Australia (WA)
- Tasmania (Tas.)
- Northern Territory (NT)
- Australian Capital Territory (ACT)
- Other Territories (OT).

File Contents

For example MB_2011_ASGC_NSW.csv contains all MBs within NSW and includes the following fields:

- MB_CODE_2011
- SLA_MAINCODE_2011
- SLA_NAME_2011
- SLA_5DIGITCODE_2011
- SSD_CODE_2011
- SSD_NAME_2011
- SD_CODE_2011
- SD_NAME_2011
- STATE_CODE_2011
- STATE_NAME_2011
- SDIST_CODE_2011
- SDIST_NAME_2011
- MSR_CODE_2011
- MSR_NAME_2011
- SR_CODE_2011
- SR_NAME_2011
- SRS_CODE_2011
- SRS_NAME_2011
- SLA_REGIONCODE_2011
- LGA_CODE_2011
- LGA_NAME_2011
- MB_AREA_SQKMS_2011

These files list the MBs that make up the SLAs, SSDs, SDs, State, SDists, MSRs, SRs, SRSs and the LGAs.

The file provides the area in square kilometres of the MBs, which is calculated using Albers equal-area conic projection. Please note, special purpose MBs and water MBs outside the ASGC regions have not been given a spatial object, and therefore have no area in the .csv files.

Information and boundaries for Mesh Blocks are available from the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 1 - Main Structure and Greater Capital City Statistical Areas, July 2011 (cat no. 1270.0.55.001)

Data Cubes (I-Note) - Data Cubes

All 9 .csv files containing the Mesh Block (MB) ASGC hierarchies have been replaced. The change is minor with the removal of the non-spatial MB code for 'No Usual Address' (MB code *0000009499; where * = State/Territory) from each file.

The No Usual Address MB was previously incorrectly allocated to the Migratory - Offshore - Shipping SLA (*85019779; where * = State/Territory).

The No Usual Address MB is only used for the output of Census data and does not relate to any of the spatial records in the ASGC.

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